

**THE MORAY COUNCIL**  
**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY 14 APRIL 2010**

**COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN**

**PRESENT**

Councillors J Hamilton(Chairman), A McKay, G Coull, J Divers, J Hogg, A McDonald, E McGillivray, I Ogilvie, D Ross, J Russell, M Shand, I Young, Ms F Wardhaugh, Primary School Representative and Mrs S Slater, Secondary School Representative.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillor F Murdoch in respect of items 19 & 21.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

The Director of Community Services, the Director of Educational Services, the Head of Children, Families & Criminal Justice, the Head of Educational Development Services, the Acting Head of Educational Support Services, the Educational Resources Manager, the PPP Project Officer, the Libraries and Museums Manager, the Sports Development Officer, Mr R Weeden, Community Development Officer, Mrs D Brands, Principal Accountant, Mrs R Gunn, the Acting Principal Solicitor, (Litigation & Licensing) and Mrs S Kennedy, Committee Services Officer as Clerk to the Meeting.

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors M McConachie, Mrs A R MacLennan, Rev C M Stewart and Rev G Swanson, (Religious Representatives), Miss F Jagger (Pupil Representative) and Councillor G McIntyre and A Wright (Ex-Officio).

**1. DECLARATION OF GROUP INTERESTS**

There were no declarations from group leaders or spokespersons in regard to any prior decisions taken on how members will vote on any item on the Agenda or any declarations of Members Interest in respect of any item on the Agenda.

**2. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

The Chair advised that the participants involved in the Moray Young Citizens Awards would be joining the meeting and Members would have the opportunity to meet with them during the tea break and thereafter the winners of the school award would give a short presentation to Elected Members.

The Chair also advised that a report previously requested by Councillor Paul at this Committee with regard to Swimming Lessons had been issued as an information report to all Members.

The Committee joined the Chair in wishing Alistair Farquhar, The Head of Educational Resource Service a speedy recovery following his recent operation.

### **3. WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

The meeting noted the following written question submitted by Councillor Ross and the Council's response thereto:

#### **QUESTION**

Councillor Ross asked what progress had taken place to resolve the current shortage of playable football pitches in Elgin since he last submitted this question to this Committee on 20 May 2009?

#### **COUNCIL RESPONSE**

Since May 2009, work on the fences at Pinefield had been completed and the two pitches were operating successfully in meeting the needs of both the SJFA teams and the wider community.

Increased maintenance of pitches has continued and, in particular, this has resulted in improved availability of the pitch at the rear of Borough Briggs.

One area of disappointment had been in the use of the pitches at Thornhill. Consultation had been held with local football organisations and an offer has been made to provide limited changing accommodation (2 x team & referee areas, chemical toilets and hand washing facilities but without electricity and running water). This, however, has been rejected by the organisations concerned and consequently the pitches remain unused. This means that there will continue to be pressure on the remaining facilities and, in order to avoid longer term damage, some pitches may need to be rested for short periods. This may result in postponement of games.

As a supplementary question Councillor Ross advised in light of the fact that a facility had been offered to the club without electricity and running water he asked what prospect there was of this Council entering into early discussions with the Developer to ensure that electricity and running water is provided to allow the welfare league to use the pitches and relieve the pressures before the season starts in Elgin.

In response the Educational Resources Manager advised that the issue at Thornhill was complicated. A pavilion would be provided by the developer as part of developer contributions once a certain trigger point had been reached in the planning process. To undertake the works on a temporary basis, however would prove to be expensive for the Council as they would not be able to recuperate monies through the letting charges for the pitches under the current budget position. He hoped that a compromise could have been reached with the football organisations on the facilities, however this did not happen to an accepted level and he could not see any significant changes to the current position.

#### **4. EDUCATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES CAPITAL BUDGETS 2009/10**

There was submitted a joint report by the Directors of Educational and Community Services informing the Committee of the projects and patterns of expenditure projected for Capital Budgets within Educational and Community Services for 2009/10 to 28 February 2010.

Prior to discussion the Chair advised the Committee of an error within the report with regard to the date printed in paragraphs 1.1 and 6.1 of the report. This should be 28 February 2010.

In response to concerns expressed by Councillor Divers re Elgin High School sports facilities the Director advised that the point he was making was that if the regional sports facility were to be delayed or not to go forward then he needs to be in a position to say what condition and suitability issues exist for Elgin High School, which have been deferred on the expectation of the regional sports centre development and that was the commitment he gave at the previous meeting of this Committee and that work was ongoing.

The Educational Resource Manager also advised that he had met with the Headteacher and had extensive talks and received some substantial written information which is being used to develop a potential proposal for future works at Elgin High School.

Councillor Divers advised that he would keep a watchful eye on development and would raise this issue at regular intervals.

In response to a question from Councillor Ross asking what the possibility was of this Authority entering into early discussions with the Developer to speed up the Developer Contribution to provide electricity and running water at Thornhill, the Educational Resource Manager advised that the situation was complicated and an agreement was in place through the planning process and he gave an assurance that these discussions would take place.

Councillor Divers advised that he had discussions with Springfield Properties and the site proposed for the pavilion was the one currently being used for site offices and this would be an expensive process for the developer at this stage in the planning process.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed to:

- (i) note the current position regarding the Educational and Community Services Capital Programme; and
- (ii) approve the implementation of the capital project identified in Paragraph 4.5 of the report.

## **5. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT**

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services providing the Committee with a summary statement for the Educational Services Revenue Budget as at 28 February 2010 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

It was further agreed that the Director of Educational Services would raise Members' concerns with regard to underspends in energy budgets with the Chief Financial Officer with a view to progressing the issue.

## **6. SINGLETON INSPECTIONS OF PRE-SCHOOL CENTRES - PUBLISHED REPORTS FROM FEBRUARY 2010 TO MARCH 2010**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services asking the Committee to note the singleton inspections of pre-school centres by the Care Commission which were published between February 2010 and March 2010 in respect of:

Aberlour & Craigellachie Playgroup, Aberlour  
Ark Childcare Ltd, Mosstowie  
Hop, Skip & Jump Nursery, Forres  
Knockando Playgroup, Knockando  
Lilliput Play 'n' Learn Centre, Elgin  
Magic Roundabout Childcare Centre, Elgin  
Magic Roundabout Childcare Centre (Southfield), Elgin  
Magic Roundabout Childcare Centre, Fochabers  
Rainbow Childcare & Education Ltd, Forres  
Rose Abbey School, Kinloss  
V.I.P. Childcare - Moray, Elgin

The Committee joined the Chair in congratulating everyone involved in respect of the inspections.

## **7. HMIE SCHOOL INSPECTIONS - PUBLISHED REPORTS FEBRUARY - MARCH 2010**

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services asking the Committee to scrutinise and note the most recent reports published following inspections by HM Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) of schools and nursery classes in Moray in respect of:

Alves Primary School;  
Follow Through Inspection of Lhanbryde Primary School and Nursery Class; and  
Follow Through Inspection of Crossroads Primary School.  
Following consideration the Committee scrutinised and noted the contents of the report and joined the Chair in congratulating everyone involved in respect of the inspections.

## **8. PUBLIC PERFORMANCE REPORTING - EXCLUSIONS FROM SCHOOLS IN SCOTLAND 2008/09**

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services notifying the Committee of performance information with regard to exclusions from schools in Scotland as detailed in Appendices 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the report.

## **9. PUBLIC PERFORMANCE REPORTING - PUPILS IN SCOTLAND 2009**

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services notifying the Committee of information with regard to Pupils in Scotland, mainly derived from the latest annual pupil census, which took place in September 2009 as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report.

## **10. PUBLIC PERFORMANCE REPORTING - TEACHERS IN SCOTLAND 2009**

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services notifying the Committee of information with regard to Teachers in Scotland, mainly derived from the latest annual staff census which took place in September 2009 as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report.

## **11. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES - PUBLIC PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS - SCHOOL SESSION 2008/09**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services asking the Committee to consider and note the performance information contained in the Public Performance Report School Session 2008/09.

In response to a question from Councillor Ross with regard to providing reports in alternative languages, the Director of Educational Services gave an assurance that the Council do not automatically produce reports in alternative languages and do not have staff employed as such to do this, however if a request comes in for a report in an alternative language then a service is available to the Council to enable them to support the provision of the translation. He advised that he would raise the corporate uptake on documentation in alternative languages with the Chief Executive.

In response to a request from Councillor Russell with regard to energy budgets in schools, Mrs D Brands, Principal Accountant advised that Headteachers receive detailed monthly budget monitoring reports and she would provide 6 monthly reports on the energy consumption within schools as a comparator to last years figures to this Committee.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the information contained in the Public Performance Report - School Session 2008/09 as detailed in Appendix 1 of report;
- (ii) that the Director of Educational Services would raise the Corporate uptake on documentation in alternative languages with the Chief Executive.

- (iii) that Mrs D Brands, Principal Accountant would submit a six monthly report with regard to the energy consumption within schools to future meetings of this Committee.

## **12. PROGRESS UPDATE AGAINST SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN ACTIONS AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR PERIOD OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2009**

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services updating the Committee on progress against the Educational Services, Service Improvement Plan 2009-12 and performance against Service Outcome and Service Standard indicators.

In response to a request from Councillor Hogg seeking a further set of indicators relating to SQA examinations the Director of Educational Services explained the process and advised that if the request related to Standards and Outcomes, this had previously been agreed by Members last year. If this was a request to change the indicators then he would need to know what was required and any changes would need to be reported back to this Committee to be included in next years indicators as part of the Corporate process. With regard to implementation dates he advised that he would discuss the matter further with the Corporate Policy Unit Manager.

In response to Members' concerns the Educational Resource Manager agreed to provide additional information to Councillor Coull on the range of marketing techniques being used to promote the use of swimming pools and to submit a report on the School Estate. The Libraries and Museums Manager advised Councillor Shand that the initial uptake position at Portknockie Library was poor but had improved and was expected to improve further once all the libraries under the Integrated Libraries programme were complete including IT resources.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed to note:

- (i) the progress being made against the Service Improvement Plan for the period October to December 2009; and
- (ii) the performance against Service Outcome and Service Standard indicators for the period October to December 2009.

## **13. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PPP BUDGET MONITORING REPORT**

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services providing the Committee with a summary monitoring statement for the PPP Budget as at 28 February 2010 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

#### **14. INSPECTION OF MORAY ADOPTION SERVICE**

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Community Services inviting the Committee to note the inspection of Moray's Adoption Service by the Care Commission which was completed on 9 February 2010 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

The Chair advised that this was an excellent report with many identified strengths and on behalf of the Committee congratulated everyone associated with it.

#### **15. INSPECTION OF MORAY SUPPORTED LODGINGS PROJECT**

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Community Services inviting the Committee to note the inspection of Moray's Supported Lodgings Project by the Care Commission which was completed on 21 January 2010 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

The Chair on behalf of the Committee congratulated everyone involved in this project which was a very important service for young adults.

#### **16. CHILDREN & FAMILIES PERFORMANCE REPORT, THIRD QUARTER, OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2009**

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Community Services inviting the Committee to note the Performance Indicators for the Children and Families Service for the quarter, 1 October to 31 December 2009, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

#### **17. SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES - 2010/11**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services inviting the Committee to approve the proposed Service Improvement Priorities for Children's Services and Social Work Staff Development in 2010/11 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

Following consideration the Committee agreed:

- (i) to approve the Service Improvement Priorities for Children's Services and Social Work Staff Development 2010/11; and
- (ii) that monitoring reports be presented to future meetings.

#### **18. COMMUNITY SERVICES SERVICE DEVELOPMENT & IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2009 - 10 MONITORING REPORT, THIRD QUARTER, OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2009**

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Community Services inviting the Committee to note the division's performance against the Service Development & Improvement Plan 2009-10 for the quarter, 1 October to 31 December 2009 as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

## **19. LOCAL HERITAGE CENTRE: PUBLICITY & PROMOTION**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services inviting the Committee to approve the publicity and promotions campaign for the Local Heritage Centre, Elgin, which seeks to raise the profile of the Centre, and to attract and involve more visitors.

In response to concerns expressed by Members the Libraries and Museum Manager gave an assurance that Moray, Banff and Buchan Colleges and Tomintoul Games would be added to the list of programmed events, that monitoring reports would be submitted regularly to Committee and that a longer term view on the visitor centre would be taken and a report would be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee on the Visitor Development Strategy.

On behalf of the Committee the Chair congratulated the officers for their work and noted the unpaid work carried out by the Voluntary Sector. The Leisure and Libraries Manager advised that he would be delighted to hear from any volunteers interested in enhancing the service.

Thereafter, the Committee, in light of the need to raise the profile of the Local Heritage Centre and to attract and involve more visitors the Committee agreed to:

- (i) note the effective involvement of the Centre in the Moray Connections Family History initiative in para 3.5 of the report;
- (ii) note the initiative being carried out to improve signposting to the Centre in para 3.6 of the report;
- (iii) approve the Publicity and Outreach Programme for 2010-2011 set out in para 3.7 which seeks to increase visitors by at least 5% and widen community involvement; and
- (iv) note that a Visitor Development Strategy would be prepared during 2010-2011.

## **20. SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SNOW CLEARING**

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services informing the Committee of activities undertaken by schools during the recent adverse weather.

## **21. THE YOUNG PERSONS CITIZEN AWARDS – PRESENTATION**

The Chair welcomed and introduced the winners of the Young Persons Citizen Awards to the Committee.

Thereafter, the meeting noted the presentation given by the overall winners of the Young Persons Citizen Awards from Speyside High School which highlighted the many areas of work that they have been contributing to.

The Chair on behalf of the Committee thanked everyone for bringing to the attention of the Committee all the good work that is being carried out by young people in the community which often went unnoticed.

## **22. AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS FORRES AND SPEYSIDE**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services asking the Committee to:

- (i) note the work carried out to attempt to develop the Riverside After School Care Club, Aberlour into a social enterprise business;
- (ii) come to a decision on the future of the Riverside After School Care Club, Aberlour effective from June 2010; and
- (iii) note the current situation regarding the operation of Forres After School Care Club and come to a decision on the future of this provision.

During discussion Councillor Young seconded by Councillor Ogilvie moved to defer consideration of the Forres After School Club in order to investigate further certain issues raised in the report.

As an Amendment Councillor Russell seconded by Councillor Divers moved that some information be provided on the report before deciding to defer consideration of the Forres After School Care.

On a Division there voted:

For the Motion (8):	-	Councillors Young, Ogilvie, Coull, Hamilton, Hogg, A McDonald, Ross and Shand.
For the Amendment (6)	-	Councillors Russell, Divers, McGillivray, A McKay, Miss F Wardhaugh and Mrs S Slater.
Abstentions (0)	-	-

The Motion became the finding of the Meeting and it was agreed to defer consideration of the Forres After School Club.

Thereafter, the Committee proceeded to discuss the Riverside After School Club.

Following discussion the Chair moved acceptance of the recommendations as printed. There being no one otherwise minded the Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the work carried out to develop the Riverside Out of School Care Club as a social enterprise business;
- (ii) that it is unlikely that the club will be able to operate as a social enterprise business;

- (iv) to cease the current Council financial support to the Riverside After School Club as of 30 June 2010 or whenever the deficit reaches the £10,000 limit set by the Council in December 2008, whichever is the earlier; and
- (v) that a report on the Forres After School Club would be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee

### **23. FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services seeking the Committee's approval to establish a full-time post of Football Development Co-ordinator for a period of three years.

Following a motion by Councillor McGillivray seconded by Councillor Russell the Committee agreed to establish a full-time post of Football Development Co-ordinator for a period of three years in partnership with the Scottish Football Association, Moray Leader and other local partners as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

### **24. SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAMME: SELECTION OF PRIORITY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services providing the Committee with additional information relating to the prioritisation of schools for the Scottish Government's School Building Programme.

Following discussion Councillor Hamilton moved that the funding be used for Kinloss Primary School, his motion failed to find a seconder.

As an Amendment Councillor Ross seconded by Councillor A McDonald moved approval of the recommendations and agreed to note the additional information provided and to recommend to The Moray Council that they endorse Milne's Primary School as this authority's priority School Building Programme funding.

### **25. FOSTERING FEES AND RELATED ALLOWANCES**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services inviting the Committee to agree arrangements to determine levels of payment for fostering fees and related allowances.

Following consideration the Committee approved the undernoted mechanism for setting fostering fees and related allowances on an annual basis as set out in Table 1 of the report:

- (i) Fostering, Adoption and Residency Allowances to change in line with the recommendation made by the Fostering Network (expressed as a percentage change); and
- (ii) Fostering Fees to change in line with the percentage salary change agreed for the Council employees through the Scottish Joint Council

(SJC).Following consideration the Committee approved the following mechanism to set fostering fees and related allowances on an annual basis:

## **26. CHILDREN & FAMILIES REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2009/10**

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Community Services informing the Committee of the position as at 28 February 2010 regarding the Children & Families Revenue budget.

## **27. STRENGTHENING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND PARTICIPATION IN MORAY**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services advising the Committee of a proposed framework to inform, support and monitor developments in our approach to engagement, participation and rights regarding children and young people in Moray.

Following consideration the Committee agreed:

- (i) the actions taken to date in relation to supporting children's rights and creating opportunities for young people to influence the detail of the service they receive; and
- (ii) to endorse the initiatives being considered to develop approaches further, as outlined in Appendix 1.

## **28. QUESTION TIME**

In response to a question from Councillor Shand seeking assurance that a report on the ICT Development Plan for Schools would be forthcoming to this Committee, the Director of Educational Services advised that a report would be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.

In response to a question from Councillor Coull asking when the Administration Group would be submitting their school estate programme, the Director of Educational Services advised that in terms of school estate a report would be submitted to Full Council in May 2010. In terms of working capacity a report is submitted annually in August to Committee.